

True and Impartial  
**RELATION**

O F  
The Birth and Education

CLAUDIUS du VAL

Together

With the manner of his Apprehend-

ing, Commitment to New-gate; As also  
his Tryall at the Sessions-house in the Old-Baily the  
14, and 15, and his Condemnation on the 17. day  
of this present Month; And likewise his deportment  
in the said Gaol. How he had been presented; And  
by what means at first he became debauched; by his  
own Confession. And lastly, the manner of his Exe-  
cution at Tyburn, on Fryday the 21. of this present  
January 1669.

Written by one that was an Eye-witness, as to the matter of  
his Tryall; and for his Actions, they were imparted unto  
him from his own mouth during his Confinement.

LONDON, Printed by T. Ratcliff, and T. Daniel,  
and are to be sold at their House in Newstreet, be-  
twixt Shooe-lane and Fetter-lane. 1669.

*Of his Birth and Education, &c.*

**C***laudius du Val*, who is the present Subject of all persons Discourse, and now of the Authors Writing, out of a desire to satisfy all People, and that they might not be abused by false Pamphlets, or erroneous Suggestions, took upon him this Work, (as presuming himself not ignorant of the Condition of *du Val*) having it as an Eye-witness to matter of Tryal, and for his Actions from his own Mouth, during his Confinement, as may be testified by credible Witnesses, if any one scruple the truth hereof.

Various hath been the Reports concerning the place of his Birth, being strongly averr'd to be in *London* and *Westminster*, and that in severall places, as *Chancery-Lane*, *Drury-Lane*, *Covent-Garden*, *White-Chappell*, and many other places; but he himself owned none of all these, but declared to have drawn his first breath in *Paris* in *France*: his Parents he did not boast of; his Education was there, till a Gentle-

man

man of quality liking his Person, in which Nature was bountifull, brought him over for *England* in the nature of a Page; with whom he lived, till a Noble and Eminent Peer desired of his Master to have him; with whom he continued some years; who was pleased to prefer him from his Page to a more Honourable service, where he continued till his Lady dyed; After which he was transmitted to the service as Gentleman to a Person of Honour, related to the said Noble Family, and there continued till about two years and an half ago; and then a Difference arising, his Master was willing to part with him, and advised him to retire home to his own Countrey, lest bad Company might debauch him; and that he might have no excuse to derogate from this wholesome advice, (after his Noble Master had caused to be pay'd him what was his due) he gave him a Gelding worth twenty Pieces, and twenty Pieces in broad Gold, to defray his charges, and so they parted; and *du Val* came to *London*,



intending his passage for *France*; but in the interim fell into the acquaintance of some of the Old Gang of High-way-men, who by debauchery corrupted his nature; so that (by his own confession) it was since he left his last service, that he fell into those lewd and wicked wayes. I shall wave Particulars, which I might insist on; but in short, for his short time he was a great Offender, being put into two several Proclamations, & being often sought after, at last was taken (by the vigilancy of Mr. Bennett the Bayliff of the City and Liberty of *Westminster*) at the Sign of the *Hole in the Wall* in *Shando's-Street*, being an Ale-House. At his taking he was well Arm'd, having three Pistols in his Pocket when he was seized on; but, being surprized by a stratagem, he made no resistance, and so was committed unto his Majesties Gaol of *Newgate*, on *Christmas* day last, by Warrant from one of his Majesties Justices, before whom he stood accused of severall Robberies, and other Crimes.

## The manner of his Tryall followeth.

ON the 14. day of *January*, the Court being set at the Sessions-house in the *Old Bayly*, He was Arraigned, and Pleaded to Seven several Indictments; and then the Court rose. *Saturday* being the 15. He came again upon his Tryall for robbing of *John Cox*, Servant to a Noble Lord; which he confessed.

The next was for robbing *Thomas Laurence*, servant to the said Lord, to which He had Pleaded not Guilty, but it was sufficiently proved. Amongst others, *Thomas Laurence*, behaved himself very stoutly, fighting a long time with *Humble Ashenbush* (another of the Gang) from whom he received and gave several wounds, and had he had fair play undoubtedly *Ashenbush* had been secure in a Gaole or a Grave.

The third Indictment was for Robbing Master *Thomas Hastings* and his Wife in a Coach, about two years ago; and taking away to the value of 17. pounds 10. shillings, the Robbery was proved by Mr. *Hastings*,  
but

but could not accuse the Prisoner at the Bar, which was onely *du Val*; but that was proved by *George Withrington*, who was best able to give an account of that, having been one of the Party, and by whose Evidence some of the Offenders were formerly Convicted and suffered.

The fourth was an Indictment for Felony and Burglary, for entring the House of *Lancelot Johnson Esq;* stealing several Goods to a great value. The Fact was proved by Mr. *Johnsons* Man and others, who were deluded under pretence to take the said House, and desiring to be admitted in, to leave a Note in writing, seized upon the Servants, secured the Gate and Doors, and Ranzack'd the House; there were a great many more concerned in this Robbery, for which, and others, they justly suffered the Law; this was proved by the said *George Withrington*, an Actor in the same.

The fifth Indictment was for robbing *Thomas Browning* and *Mary Trotman*, to the value of thirty pounds, which was likewise proved.

The sixth Indictment was for robbing one *Thomas Harris*, a poor Man of fourteen pounds ten shillings, all that he had, which did so trouble him, that he desired them even to kill him; upon which they sportingly asked him what death would you willingly dye? *Any*, said he. What would you be Run through? *What you please*, said he; *sayes another*, would you be Pistol'd? *what*



*What you please*, said he; would you have your Throat cut said another? *What you please*, said he; but God restrain'd them, that they did him no other hurt, leaving him to lament his loss; this was proved also.

The seventh Indictment was for robbing one *William Hopkins*, taking away his Bridle, valued at 12 d. and 11 s. in Money, which was proved.

Of all which Robberies the Jury brought him in Guilty; and for the Felony and Burglary committed in the House of *Lancelot Johnson*, only guilty of Felony, and not Burglary, the reason was because it was not done in the night-time.

There was another Indictment against him for Murder, for killing one *James Tyrrell*, near the *Golden Lyon* in the *Strand*, about four or five years ago: but there was no proof; for the Coroners Jury of Enquiry that then sat, found that a Dutch-man committed the Fact; although *Withrington* upon this tryall said, That upon discourse with *du Val*, and others of his wicked Society, and boasting of their Manhood, otherwise Villanies, *du Val* should say he did kill a Man near *Durham-yard* in the *Strand*; but it was believed it was but a boast, the better to fit himself for so wicked a Company, of which he was then to be a Member: So that the Jury acquitted him of that, and brought him Not Guilty of that Indictment. There were several more Indictments, which for want of Evidence, or at leastwise thinking there was enough, the Sessions ended.

Con-

*Concerning His Deportment before and after  
Tryal.*

**I** Cannot but write something as to his Deportment, both before and after his Tryal, during his Confinement; Never had Prisoner such a Concourse of people came to see him, and most out of novelty, and whatever their opinions were before they went up, they pittied his condition when they came from him, which I impute to his Youth; he was very temperate as to drink, and his Actions very modest, and discourse civil; a long time he was in hopes of obtaining a Reprieve, which when he found to the contrary, he was much dejected, and said, *Never Man had more and better Friends, and worse success*; from that time, as I am informed, he was very penitent; and on the morning of his Execution, hearing the Bell Toll, said, *I hear my Summons for another World*; at the Gallows he prayed very earnestly that God would forgive him his world of Sins, and that the World would forgive him; That he dyed in charity with all men, and craved the Prayers of them all, and that they would take Example by him, to amend their lives, lest they fell into the like wayes; for then Gods Judgements would overtake them, as it had done him. And so committing his Soul to God Almighty, and often calling upon Christ for mercy, the Executioner discharged his Office.

APRIL

Maars

12-4-48

3406